

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 00269

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, BTRA, CH

SUBJEC: VISIT TO PRC BY PANAM EXECUTIVES

REF: PEKING 0002

1. PANAM BOARD CHAIRMAN W.T. SEAWELL AND TWO OTHER PANAM EXECUTIVES VISITED DEPARTMENT JANUARY 4 TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO PRC WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS. ALTHOUGH PANAM DOES NOT KNOW WHAT SPECIFICALLY MOTIVATED THE INVITATION, IT MAY BE RELATED TO SEAWALL'S CONTACTS WITH HUANG HUA IN NEW YORK AND VARIOUS OTHER PANAM CONTACTS WITH THE CHINESE DATIN BACK AT LEAST TO 1971. AN INVITATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED FOR A VISIT LAST FALL, BUT THE CHINESE LATER ASKED THAT THE VISIT BE POSTPONED UNTIL EARLY THIS YEAR. THE PANAM EXECUTIVES INDICATED THAT THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT, IF ANYTHING, THE CHINESE WISH TO DISCUSS OR WHOM THEY WILL SEE. THEY WILL OF COURSE BE PREPARED TO MAKE PRESENTATION ON HISTORY AND CAPABILITIES OF PANAM, AND ARE PREPARING ILLUSTRATED BILINGUAL BROCHURE, IF BUSINESS SUBJECTS ARE RAISED BY CHINESE.

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2. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS BRIEFLY REVIEWED VARIOUS U.S.-

PRC BILATERAL AVIATION ISSUES, INCLUDING FACT THAT NOVEMBER 1972 LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO AIRLINE PRESIDENTS (REQUESTING THAT THEY NOT/NOT APPROACH PRC DIRECTLY CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHEDULED SERVICE) IS STILL IN EFFECT. ALSO BRIEFLY DISCUSSED CAPABILITIES OF CAAC

AND FACT THAT PRC SEEMS ON THE VERGE OF SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICES.

3. PANAM OFFICIALS (SEAWELL, SENIOR VP THOMAS J. FLANAGAN, TWO OTHER OFFICIALS, PLUS WIVES) PLAN TO ENTER PRC JANUARY 13 VIA HONG KONG, SPEND APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK IN PEKING, SPEND AN ADDITIONAL WEEK SIGHTSEEING ELSEWHERE IN PRC, AND EXIT VIA HONG KONG ON JANUARY*27. THEY WERE UNCLEAR AS TO WHETHER THEY WOULD BE CONSIDERED GUESTS OF CAAG. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS RELAYED AMB. BRUCE'S INVITATION TO MEET WITH GROUP (PARA. 3 REFTEL), WHICH SEAWELL ACCEPTED WITH PLEASURE.

4. SEAWELL INDICATED *ANAM WOULD BRIEF DEPARTMENT ON RETURN.

5. FYI: THIS TRIP WILL BE FIRST VISIT BY H*GH LEVEL U.S. AIRLINE OFFICIALS TO PEKING IN MANY YEARS. QUESTION OF SCHEDULED AND CHARTERED SERVICES TO PRC IS OF COURSE A MATTER OF INTENSE (AND COMPETITIVE) INTEREST TO PANAM, WA, UNITED, AND--TO A LESSER EXTENT--TWA AND POSSIBLY OTHERS. WE BELIEVE THAT PANAM WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO PRC PROPOSALS IN AREAS OF--FOR EXAMPLE--EXTENDING MAINTENANCE FACILITIES OR TRAINING TO CAAC, MARKETING, OR TOURISM (E.G., HOTELS). DEPARTMENT WOULD WANT PANAM AND OTHER CARRIERS TO COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH USG ON ANY PROPOSALS FOR COOPERATION WITH CAAC. PANAM APPEARS TO BE AWARE OF USG CONCERNS IN THIS REGARD. END FYI.

6. WE HAD CONTACTED PANAM WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE JANUARY 2 RE PARA. 1 REFTEL. SEAWELL SENT FOLLOWING VIA COMMERCIAL CABLE TO MA JEN-HUI ON JANUARY 3:

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QUOTE ON JANUARY 13, 1974 I WILL LEAD A PARTY OF FOUR OFFICIALS OF PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS ON A VISIT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. WE WILL BE IN PEKING FROM JANUARY 14 TO JANUARY 20. I WOULD BE HONORED IF YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET WITH US DURING THAT TIME. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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